



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Northwest Region

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TTY 711

December 2, 2021

via electronic delivery

Rob Webb, Principal Engineer
Dalton Olmsted Fuglevand
1236 Finn Hill Road
Poulsbo, WA 98370

RE: 2022 Johnson Lake, Fish Tissue Sampling
ECSI # 2086

Dear Rob Webb:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is writing with regards to the 2022 fish tissue sampling to be conducted in Johnson Lake, located west of I-205 adjacent to the Owens Brockway Glass Container, Inc. facility (5850 NE 92nd Drive in Portland, Oregon; ECSI# 2086). Fish tissue sampling is required as part of long-term monitoring of the remedial action implemented by Owens Brockway Glass Container, Inc. (Owens-Brockway) as described in the *Remediation Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan)-Sediment Remedial Action* (December 20, 2012) approved by DEQ.

Please submit a fish tissue sampling plan within 90 days to provide DEQ with adequate time to review and comment on sampling activities. In developing the 2022 sampling plan, please consider the following:

1. As mentioned in DEQ's January 29, 2018 letter regarding the 2017 Johnson Lake Fish Tissue Monitoring Study, *"because PCBs are still present in fish tissue in Johnson Lake at levels that exceed protective concentrations for human consumption, warning signs must be maintained and fish must be sampled again in 2022. Documentation of the 2022 fish tissue sampling event should include the information provided in the 2018 revised report as well as a summary of the results from the 2017 and 2004 events for comparison."*
2. DEQ's 2018 letter highlights four elements that should be incorporated in the 2022 sampling effort and evaluation. Please refer to this letter (attached), the 2018 revised report, and the O&M Plan in developing the sampling plan for the 2022 fish tissue sampling event.
3. The sampling collection effort should be sufficient to meet data quality objectives specified in the O&M Plan, such as the number, size, and location of fish collected in the lake.
 - a. At a minimum, largescale sucker and carp representing a large size class (>350 mm) must be collected in sufficient numbers for both fillet and whole-body analysis for the evaluation of human and wildlife fish consumption. These two

- species were the dominant fish species collected during the remedial investigation (2004), evaluated in the baseline risk assessment, and formed the basis for the remedial action objective to prevent consumption of fish with tissue concentrations greater than 0.003 ppb PCB congener 126.
- b. Game and panfish (e.g., largemouth, smallmouth, bluegill, sunfish) should also be targeted, but obtaining large numbers for compositing may not be achievable based on previous collection efforts and habitat present. This may necessitate the analysis of individual fish.
 - c. The collection of small whole-fish composites should prioritize perimeter sampling zones 6, 7, and 8 to evaluate body burdens of small home range species closest to the facility.
 - d. DEQ recommends employing a full range of gear types (e.g., beach seining and gill nets) to meet these objectives or reaching out to local panfish clubs to help focus the collection effort using hook and line methods, which can also help avoid incidental collection of non-target species.
4. The sampling plan should also include a reconnaissance survey of the existing warning signs to determine their condition and effectiveness, and an action plan for maintenance of the signs if warranted.

Additionally, City of Portland notified DEQ that Owens-Brockway has exceeded its NPDES permit, and provided DEQ with the letter they issued to Owens-Brockway on September 20, 2019 regarding, "Tier II Corrective Action Submittal." The letter requested Tier II corrective actions for two outfalls, monitoring locations 002 and 006, which discharge into Johnson Lake. The City also recently requested DEQ's review of the pollutant controls proposed by Owens Brockway, which included plans for surface area covers and installation of an in-line filter in a stormwater system for one of the outfalls to Johnson Lake. DEQ has concerns about uncontrolled upland sources of contamination, which included elevated concentrations of total suspended solids and phosphorous, and potential recontamination of the existing cap as a result of these permit exceedances. Please provide DEQ with a summary of the work completed for the stormwater discharges that are currently out of compliance with the permit levels, including the following:

1. Historical sampling results for the NPDES permit discharge locations to Johnson Lake, screened against the NPDES discharge levels and Columbia Slough-specific upland source control values;
2. A source control evaluation related to the potential impacts of the uncontrolled stormwater pathway to the Johnson Lake sediment cap and a description of any emergency response related to spills to the waterway, since the installation of the sediment cap (2012);
3. A summary of the proposed source controls and other specific measures proposed and/or implemented to address the stormwater pathways from Owens-Brockway to Johnson Lake;
4. A conclusions and recommendations section for additional assessment and/or controls, if warranted, for the stormwater pathway.

Please submit this information in a *Draft Johnson Lake, Upland Source Control Review Report* within 90 days for DEQ review and comment.

DEQ would be happy to meet with you virtually if you would like to talk more about DEQ's expectations related to the Fish Tissue Sampling Work Plan. I am available at (503) 229-5538 or franziska.landes@deq.state.or.us if you'd like to arrange a meeting or if you have any other questions or comments about this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. Landes".

Franziska Landes
Project Manager and Data Analyst
Northwest Region Cleanup Section

Ec: Heidi Nelson, DEQ
Jennifer Peterson, DEQ
Sue Sholl, Owens Illinois
Rebecca Hillwig, Oregon Health Authority
Tim Dean, City of Portland